

In the Claims:

Claims 1-2 (previously cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for producing frequency-converted laser radiation of enhanced power stability and minimum degradation comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a preferred beam path direction of a frequency conversion crystal by arranging a crystal in one of two directions for frequency conversion, the directions being related by 180°, and the beam path direction being selected according to lower degradation compared to the other beam path direction;

(b) amplifying radiation of an optical pumping source by using an optical cavity having at least one frequency conversion crystal disposed such that the crystal is passed by the radiation only in the selected beam path direction.

~~(a) providing an optical pumping source producing optical pumping radiation, and an actively stabilized unidirectional ring cavity, including a Brewster cut frequency conversion crystal; and~~

~~(b) predetermining the beam path direction of the frequency conversion crystal such that said crystal is passed by the radiation only in a predetermined beam path direction.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): A frequency-converted laser apparatus comprising
an optical pumping source for producing optical pumping radiation;
a unidirectional ring cavity comprising a frequency conversion crystal, a prism and mirror arrangement, wherein the frequency conversion crystal is positioned such that the radiation produced by the optical pumping source enters in a predetermined direction, and ~~wherein the frequency conversion crystal is a symmetrical Brewster-angled crystal.~~ in a direction such that the crystal is passed by radiation only in one selected beam path direction.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (previously amended): The frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising coupling optics disposed between the optical pumping source and the

ring cavity.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the unidirectional ring cavity is an external resonant unidirectional cavity.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously amended): A frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the symmetrical Brewster-angled crystal is a Beta-Borium Borate (β -BaB₂O₄ or BBO) crystal or a Lithium Triborate (LiB₃O₅ or LBO) crystal.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a stage amplifier.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A frequency-converted laser apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the prism is connected to a piezoelectric element.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)